tours, one in India and another in Pakistan and to have a meeting in Pakistan within three months following the annual meeting with a view to endeavour to resolve the questions regarding the Baglihar Hydro-electric Plant on the Chenab Main in Jammu & Kashmir by agreement. India also agreed to consider Pakistan's request for communication of flood flows information by India to Pakistan during the monsoon period from 1st July, to 10th October, 2002 and Pakistan's offer of reimbursement of costs for such communication during 2001 and 2002, and convey its views. However, no discussion was held in the meeting on the Tulbul Navigation Project.

Projects on Chenab and Ravi River

740. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the three day Indus Water Commission meeting in May this year, the Pakistani delegation raised any objections and expressed its concerns about the Indian Project Baglihar Hydro-Electric Project on Chenab river and the construction of flood protection works on Ravi river;

(b) if so, the details of the projects in question and the objections raised and concerns expressed by Pakistan about them; and

(c) the Government's reaction and response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) During the 87th meeting of the Permanent Indus (PIC), the Pakistani delegation reiterated their objections about the Baglihar Hydro-Electric Plant. There was however no discussion on the construction of flood protection works on the River Ravi.

(b) and (c) Baglihar H.E. Plant being constructed by India on the Chenab Main in Jammu and Kashmir is a Run-of-River scheme with an installed capacity of 450 MW. During the 87th meeting of PIC, Pakistan Commissioner stated that though India had supplied the information about the Plant as per the requirement of the Treaty provisions, the design of the Plant did not conform to the design criteria as provided in the Treaty and therefore, in his view, a question had arisen to be considered under the

provisions of Article IX(1) of the Treaty dealing with settlement of Differences and Disputes.

However, after detailed deliberations, Pakistan Commissioner's proposal that the next meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission be convened in Pakistan with the next three months with a view to resolve the question on the Baglihar Plant be agreement, was agreed to be considered by the Indian Commissioner.

Identification of Draught Areas in the National Water Policy

741. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate measures have been adopted in the new National Water Policy, 2002 to take care of the repeated draughts suffered by large parts of country in the recent years;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the "drought prone areas" being identified so that preventive measures could also be taken in time; and

(c) in what manner Government propose to tackle the growing water scarcity crisis in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The National Water Policy, 2002 on Draught-prone Area Development lays down as:

> "19.1 Drought-prone areas should be made less vulnerable to drought-associated problems through soil-moisture conservation measures, water harvesting practices, minimisation of evaporation losses, development of the ground water potential including recharging and the transfer of surface water from surplus areas where feasible and appropriate. Pastures, forestry or other modes of development which are relatively less water-demanding should be encouraged. In planning water resource development projects, the needs of drought-prone areas should be given priority".